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**Testimony of Toxics Action Center Campaigns  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee  
February 28, 2014**

Jeff Butke

Testimony in support of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

For many years, Toxics Action Center Campaigns has helped citizen groups across New England to protect public health and the environment by working to clean up hazardous waste sites, curb pesticide spraying, and reduce pollution from hazardous waste, energy facilities, and industrial facilities. In the process, we train citizens to be long-term leaders in their communities. Over the last year, we worked with residents across the state, including a group in Bridgeport that is advocating for the responsible retirement of the city's coal-fired power plant. I am writing this to encourage you to support Senate Bill No. 126: An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals.

This bill will significantly advance Connecticut's ability to protect the health of the most vulnerable members of our community: our children. A growing body of scientific evidence indicates that even minor exposure to certain chemicals can have profound, negative effects on our health. Moreover, children are often particularly susceptible to these toxins. The rise in the use and number of chemicals has corresponded with an alarming rise in childhood illnesses, including brain cancer and leukemia.

Since chemicals in consumer products have been linked with many of these illnesses, we need to take concrete actions to safeguard the health of our children. SB 126 is a strong first step in the right direction. This issue is all the more pressing since efforts to institute these protections at the federal level have stalled. If we fail to take action on the state level, we will continue to leave our children exposed to these hazards. Therefore, I strongly encourage the committee to support this bill. After all, parents and their children have a right to know what is in the products that they bring into their homes.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Butke  
Community Organizer  
Toxics Action Center Campaigns